



Natural Resources and  
Environmental Protection Cabinet



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# *Kentucky Division of Forestry*

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importance of these resources.”**





# Kentucky Forestry. . . a perspective

Kentucky forests play as much a part in the state's history as Daniel Boone and other early pioneers. In Boone's time, the forests were home for wild game that existed in abundance, and the timber supplied materials for building homes and furniture. There were 25 million acres of forestland in Kentucky when settlers began establishing homesteads.

In 1870, Kentucky produced over 200 million board feet of lumber. By 1907, lumber production reached one billion board feet. Huge stands of yellow poplar, oak, ash and maple were harvested to satisfy a growing industrial nation. Destructive logging practices and waste prevailed throughout the early lumbering days, and fire often followed logging. Trees were so plentiful that few recognized the need for conservation.

In the early 20th century, a few nationally prominent figures such as Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, began to call attention to the need for conservation. In 1912, the Kentucky Legislature formed the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The initial emphasis for the division was to reduce the severity of wildfires in the state. Today, the mission of the Division of Forestry encompasses the entire forest spectrum. The mission reads:  
*To protect and enhance the forest resources of the Commonwealth through a public informed of the environmental and economic importance of these resources.*

To achieve this mission, the division works to attain these goals:

**Forest Stewardship** - Promote the sustainability of Kentucky's forest ecosystems.

**Health and Protection** - Improve, maintain and protect the health and condition of Kentucky's forests.

**Economic Value and Benefits** - Promote the most efficient utilization of the forest resource.

**Education** - Provide educational opportunities to increase public appreciation, awareness and knowledge of Kentucky's forests.

## Forest Stewardship Program

The motto of the Kentucky Forest Stewardship Program is "Forests for tomorrow — and for today."



The Division of Forestry, as lead agency in a multi-agency partnership, will arrange for a forester, wildlife biologist, other natural resource professional or all of the above to meet with a nonindustrial private woodland owner and help him or her prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan for his or her property. The plan is based on the owner's goals and objectives and is designed to help the landowner manage his or her property to achieve those goals. The landowner is asked to choose a first and a second priority of management from among the choices of proper forest management, fish and wildlife habitat, forest watershed improvement, and forest recreation and aesthetics.

Technical assistance is available to help the landowner implement his or her plan once it is developed. Cost-share assistance may also be available to help in carrying out some parts of the plan.

## Forest Fire Prevention and Control

The protection of the Commonwealth's forests from destructive wildfire is essential for the citizens to enjoy the multiple benefits provided by these forests. Since 1977 in Kentucky, an average of 2,033 wildfires burning 78,710 acres has occurred. Approximately 86 percent of these fires were human caused, with approximately 50 percent caused by arson. The damage to the Commonwealth's timber resource is valued at \$85.58 per acre. This is an average yearly loss of \$6,736,001 to our timber resource. This figure does not account for the loss of wildlife habitat, increased soil erosion and degraded water quality.



The Kentucky Division of Forestry is mandated by Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 149 to provide for a system of wildfire prevention, detection and suppression. State-organized forest protection provides for a forest fire detection system, usually by aerial flights, establishment of a communications network, and recruitment and training of fire crews by full-time forest technicians. Fire suppression equipment such as slip-on pumpers, tractor-pull units, leaf blowers and hand tools is used. The division also supplements its fire suppression capabilities through cooperation with rural volunteer fire departments by providing them with training, vehicles and equipment. These activities are funded in part by a county assessment of two cents for fire protection for each timberland acre.

The division promotes fire prevention through activities such as enforcement of the forest fire laws, school fire prevention programs and Smokey Bear appearances, prevention literature, and radio and TV messages.

## Reforestation and Nurseries

The Division of Forestry operates two tree seedling nurseries in the state: John P. Rhody Nursery near Gilbertsville in western Kentucky and the Morgan County Nursery near West Liberty in eastern Kentucky. These two nurseries grow 7-9 million seedlings annually, which are sold to the public for a variety of uses. Kentucky landowners plant trees for timber production, wildlife habitat, erosion control, and scenic beauty. Tree species grown include native hardwoods such as oak, ash, and black walnut, and native pines such as white and Virginia. These low-cost seedlings can



be ordered throughout the year with seedlings being delivered in time for the spring and fall planting seasons. Order forms can be found at local Cooperative Extension, Farm Services Agency (FSA), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices and Division of Forestry district offices.

## Urban and Community Forestry Program

The division provides the following types of technical assistance to assist communities in the development of urban and community forestry programs:

- establishing tree boards.
- street tree inventories.
- tree plantings.
- tree maintenance.
- training.
- procuring federal matching grants for urban forestry projects.

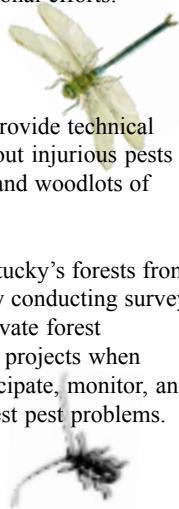


Comprehensive community forestry programs include a well-managed, publicly-owned urban forest, a work force trained in proper tree care, an adequate budget, and local citizen support and participation. Comprehensive programs will ensure that communities receive all the benefits of community trees. Financial assistance is available to municipalities, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grants. These federal grants are 50-50 matching pass-thru funds and are used to assist in the development of long-term urban forestry programs and educational efforts.

## Forest Health

The Division of Forestry will provide technical assistance to private landowners about injurious pests and insects that damage the forests and woodlots of Kentucky.

Our objective is to protect Kentucky's forests from native and introduced forest pests by conducting surveys, providing technical assistance to private forest landowners and undertaking control projects when necessary. Pest specialists will anticipate, monitor, and respond to reported or potential forest pest problems.



## State Forest Administration

To demonstrate proper forest stewardship practices, the Division of Forestry manages five state forests with a combined total of 31,350 acres. An ecosystem management plan which addresses biological diversity and sustainable use is being developed for each state forest.

Funding to expand Kentucky's state forests has been increased through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund. Revenue generated for the fund comes from a percentage of the state's portion of the unmined minerals tax, environmental penalties, and the nature license plate sales.



The five state forests are:

**Kentenia** - 3,881 acres in Harlan County.

**Kentucky Ridge** - 11,363 acres in Bell County.

**Tygarts** - 800 acres in Carter County.

**Green River** - 703 acres in Henderson County.

**Pennyrile** - 14,468 acres in Christian, Hopkins, and Caldwell counties.



## Forest Inventory and Monitoring

The Division of Forestry, in cooperation with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, conducts a forest resource inventory of the entire state of Kentucky.

The inventory is necessary to gauge the nature and impact of our forest use. Critical issues the inventory addresses are assessing trends in forest fragmentation; determining the affect of harvesting on total volume, grade, and species composition; and quantifying the effects of pollution, insect damage and disease outbreaks.

## Forest Resource Education



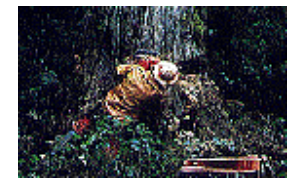
Whether it is a lesson in tree identification, forest ecology, forest management, forest fire prevention or other forest-related topics, division personnel (and Smokey Bear) are available to speak to classrooms, scout troops, civic organizations and other

groups upon request. Written, video and CD-ROM materials covering many aspects of forestry are available on loan. Teachers may also request the use of the division's "Tree Trunks" and arrange for Project Learning Tree Workshops. The goal of the Resource Education Program is to provide educational opportunities that will increase public appreciation, awareness and knowledge of one of Kentucky's most valuable resources, our forests.



## Timber Harvest Compliance

The Division of Forestry encourages the efficient use of the timber resource by providing technical assistance to timber harvesters and forest products industries. The Forest Resource Utilization Section services a wood-using industry that employs over 29,000 full-time people and contributes over \$4 billion to Kentucky's economy. This section also develops and maintains information that is used to ensure the sustainability of Kentucky's forest resources while assisting the Cabinet for Economic Development in the expansion of the forest products industry.



## Kentucky Forest Conservation Act



The Kentucky Forest Conservation Act was passed by the 1998 Legislature to promote the sustainability of Kentucky's forest ecosystems; improve, maintain and protect the health and condition of Kentucky's forest resources; promote the most efficient utilization of

forest resources; and provide educational opportunities to increase landowner, logger and public appreciation, awareness and knowledge of Kentucky's forests. The act establishes an Information and Education Program, a Forest Inventory Program and Forest Stewardship Incentive Fund; requires a master logger to be on site and in charge on all commercial timber harvesting operations; requires master loggers to complete continuing education; requires the use of appropriate best management practices on commercial timber harvesting operations; and establishes a Forestry Best Management Practices Board.

## Kentucky Master Logger Program

The division, in partnership with the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry and the Kentucky Forest Industries Association, provides the Kentucky Master Logger Program, a logger education program. The program is designed to provide compliance with the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act requirements that there must be a master logger on site and in charge of each commercial timber harvesting operation. The program is also designed to enhance the logger's ability to operate efficiently within the framework of constantly changing environmental and safety regulations.



## County Guide to District Foresters' Offices

### Northeastern District

District Forester  
255 Rodburn Hollow Road  
Morehead, KY 40351  
Phone: (606) 784-7504

Bath, Boyd, Carter, Clark, Elliott  
Bullitt, Fleming, Greenup, Lewis, Mason,  
Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan,  
Nicholas, Robertson, Rowan.

### Bluegrass District

District Forester  
P. O. Box 516  
Frankfort, KY 40602  
Phone: (502) 573-1085

Anderson, Boone, Bourbon,  
Bracken, Campbell, Carroll,  
Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin,  
Garrard, Grant, Harrison,  
Henry, Jessamine, Kenton, Madison,  
Oldham, Owen, Pendleton  
Scott, Shelby, Trimble, Woodford.

### Southeastern District

District Forester  
P. O. Box 130  
Pineville, KY 40977  
Phone: (270) 247-3913

Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson,  
Knox, Laurel, Leslie, McCreary,  
Rockcastle, Whitley.

### State Office

State Forester  
627 Comanche Trail  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-4496  
Fax: (502) 564-6553

### Green River District

District Forester  
P. O. Box 465  
Madisonville, KY 42431  
Phone: (270) 824-7527

Butler, Christian, Daviess,  
Henderson, Hopkins, Logan,  
McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio,  
Todd, Union, Webster.

### Eastern District

District Forester  
P.O. Box 189  
Betsy Layne, KY 41605  
Phone: (606) 478-4495

Floyd, Johnson, Lawrence,  
Magoffin, Martin, Pike.

### South Central District

District Forester  
120 Gaines Drive  
Campbellsville, KY 42718  
Phone: (270) 465-5071

Adair, Boyle, Casey, Clinton,  
Cumberland, Green, Lincoln,  
Marion, Mercer, Metcalfe,  
Monroe, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor,  
Washington, Wayne.

### Central District

District Forester  
129 Howell Drive  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701  
Phone: (270) 766-5010

Allen, Barren, Breckinridge,  
Edmonson, Grayson, Hancock,  
Hardin, Hart, Jefferson, Larue,  
Meade, Nelson, Simpson, Spencer,  
Warren.

### Kentucky River District

District Forester  
P.O. Box 702  
Hazard, KY 41702  
Phone: (606) 435-6073

Breathitt, Estill, Knott, Lee, Letcher,  
Owsley, Perry, Powell, Wolfe.

### Western District

District Forester  
P. O. Box 349  
Mayfield, KY 42066  
Phone: (270) 247-3913

Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle,  
Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman,  
Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken,  
Trigg.

## Division of Forestry District Offices

